

International conference
“Thinking migrations to rethink the world”

21 June 2016

MIGRINTER DOCTORAL STUDENTS' DAY

ETHNOGRAPHY AND MIGRATIONS

CALL FOR PAPERS



Migrinter doctoral students' day - Ethnography and Migrations - Tuesday, June 21st 2016

Call for papers

Migrinter celebrates its 30th anniversary. On this occasion, its doctoral students invite Phd students, Master's students and early-career researchers to gather and reflect on ethnography and international migrations. This day will provide a space for exchanges and collective learning, with the presence of senior researchers.

Through the last decades, scholars observing international migrations dynamics – such as the complexity of migratory journeys, diversification of experiences and multiplication of involved actors – constantly challenged the theoretical and conceptual frameworks pre-established. In parallel, they engaged in methodological thinking to fully grasp their object of study.

In this context, ethnography witnessed a resurgence of interest: numerous research works carried out within the last years in the field of international migrations identify with ethnography. A first review of these works brings to light the different usages of the term: “survey” or “method”, “process” or “approach”, “commitment” or “theory”, all various meanings adding to the difficulty to define it. What hides behind this enthusiasm? This study day will be an opportunity to think collectively about the epistemological, methodological and ethical stakes that arise when ethnography is applied to the study of international migrations.

- Ethnography cannot be reduced to the simple choice to immerse oneself for a long period in (a) field(s), or to mobilise qualitative surveying technics (interviews, observations). Could we consider it instead as an approach or a position adopted at every stage of the research, from its theoretical and methodological construction to the process of restitution? Does this stance ensure a deeper understanding of migratory realities? Reciprocally, to which extent does the international migrations research field feed ethnographic questioning?
- The “ethnographic commitment” or “embodied experience” involves a complete immersion of the researcher on his field and a collective construction of knowledges. In the framework of an academic research, what is the possibility to engage in a “joint research”, as suggested by ethnography? How can we co-produce knowledge with our interviewees? How can we respect our “ethnographic commitment” up to the restitution phase?
- Short-term production logics, membership in research networks, funding sources and participation in collective projects, how do constraints (notably economical) weight on the realisation of an ethnography of migrations?
- The enthusiasm for *visual ethnography*, together with a growing number of scientific trainings on this method (doctoral training, summer schools, master programs...), show a reinforced relation between audio-visual technics and ethnography. To which extent do these technics enable us to cross the limits and re-think classical methods to enquire international migrations? To which “realities” do these technics give access?

Paper proposals can also interrogate different aspects not explicit here. However, they should enquire the relation between ethnography and migrations.

Evaluation criteria

For oral presentations: Proposals of max. 2000 characters (including spaces) should be sent before 1 March 2016 to colloquedesdoctorants2016@googlegroups.com. On 1 April 2016, you will be informed of the results of the selection by the coordinators of this day. The full paper is due before 1 June 2016, in order for discussants to prepare their comments and questions.

For audio-visual presentations: Proposals of max. 2000 characters (including spaces) should be sent before 1 March 2016 to colloquedesdoctorants2016@googlegroups.com. The proposal must clearly present the film/Web documentary/photographic project's title, its format, its duration, a link to the project or a trailer, and some sentences describing the approach and the main conclusions. On 1 April 2016, you will be informed of the results of the selection by the coordinators of this day. Final version is expected on 1 June 2016.

Please indicate the language of your presentation (French or English).

Publication

The scientific committee explores the possibility of publishing the articles in a journal or an edited book. We will dedicate a moment of the day to plan for publication.

Funding

Funding will be available for transport and accommodation for the selected participants. If your proposal is selected, we first encourage you to ask for funding at your institution. However, if you are not entitled to financial support, you can send us a detailed and well-argued demand.

Contact

Scientific committee: Lucie Bacon, Marine Bertrand, Martine Brouillette, Amandine Desille and Paloma Maquet.

Questions? Comments? Please send us a mail at: colloquedesdoctorants2016@googlegroups.com

Additional information

Participate to the international conference "Thinking Migrations to Re-think the world":

The doctoral students' day is organised in the framework of Migrinter international conference to be held from 21 to 24 June 2016. On this occasion, Migrinter research lab looks back to thirty years of scientific research on international migrations. We invite you to stay for the whole week to attend the conference and participate in the debates (<http://migrinter30ans.sciencesconf.org/?lang=en>).

Participate to the annual seminar of Réseau Migrations:

Created in June 2014, Réseau Migrations (Migrations Network) is a multidisciplinary network which federates early-career researchers working on international migrations (<http://reseaumig.hypotheses.org>). Every year, Réseau Migrations organises a seminar. In 2016, it will be held on 20 June at Maison des Sciences de l'Homme et de la Société, in Poitiers. We therefore invite you to attend and participate in the debates, one day before the beginning of the Migrinter international conference.